

**Resolution authorizing a contract between Franklin County and the Columbus Housing Partnership for the hiring of an additional housing counselor to meet the increased demand in Franklin County.** (Treasurer)

**WHEREAS,** home foreclosures in Franklin County have been steadily increasing since 2005 with 8,856 foreclosure filings in Franklin County Courts for 2007 and the current figure of 7,858 as of the end of October for 2008; and

**WHEREAS,** foreclosures create vacant and blighted properties in our neighborhoods, decrease property values and therefore could lead to a decrease in the funds distributed to our schools and vital social services agencies; and

**WHEREAS,** the Treasurer, Prosecutor and the Board of Commissioners have worked to develop the Homeowner HelpLine, a comprehensive foreclosure intervention and prevention program addressing the various causes, impacts and needs resulting from the increase in home foreclosures in our community; and

**WHEREAS,** there are only 5 HUD approved housing counseling agencies in Franklin County; and

**WHEREAS,** there will be an anticipated increase in the need of housing counseling services due to an increase in public awareness through the newly created Homeowner HelpLine foreclosure program and the newly created Franklin County Foreclosure Mediation Program;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Commissioners, Franklin County, Ohio:

That the attached Contract between Franklin County and the Columbus Housing Partnership whereby the County agrees to fund the hiring of one housing counselor at the budgeted amount of \$50,000 a year (including benefits) for two years at each of the five HUD approved housing counseling agencies in Columbus is hereby approved. Approval of this resolution will also approve the opening of a purchase order from Economic Development in order to make the first payment to the agencies of \$17,375.

Prepared by: Edward J. Leonard, Franklin County Treasurer

cc:

Prosecutor  
Economic Development and Planning